

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

T. WILLARD FAIR, *Chairman*

Members

DONNA G. CALLAWAY

DR. AKSHAY DESAI

ROBERTO MARTÍNEZ

PHOEBE RAULERSON

KATHLEEN SHANAHAN

LINDA K. TAYLOR

Dr. Eric J. Smith
Commissioner of Education



MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
Selected School Principals

FROM: Frances Haithcock, Ph.D.

DATE: May 19, 2008

**SUBJECT: PARENT SURVEY ADDRESSING THE STATE PERFORMANCE PLAN
TO BE MAILED TO PARENTS IN MAY 2008**

Contact Information:

Name: Kathy Burton

Phone: (850) 245-0478

E-mail: Kathy.Burton@fldoe.org

K12: 2008 - 63

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), states are required to collect information annually from parents. This information is used to determine the extent to which schools are supporting parent involvement in their child's education. Florida Department of Education (FDOE) annually collects information by inviting a large sample of parents of children receiving special education services to complete a survey. The survey may be completed either in paper form or online. In 2007, over 170,000 survey forms were mailed to parents throughout the state.

In May 2008, FDOE will be mailing a survey to parents of children with disabilities receiving special education services. Attached is a flyer to assist you in notifying parents about the survey. The greater the number of parents who respond to the survey, the more accurate the reported district-level results. We are encouraging you to help get the word out.

The statewide survey used in Florida was designed by a national center funded by the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Items on the survey describe characteristics of teachers, administrators, and schools that facilitate parent involvement in their child's education. Examples of items include statements such as, "Teachers are available to speak with me," "I am considered an equal partner with teachers and other professionals in planning my child's program," "The school communicates regularly with me regarding my child's progress on individual educational plan goals," "The school explains what options parents have if they disagree with a decision of the school," and "The school offers parents training about special education issues." Parents are asked to indicate how much they agree or disagree with each statement.

DR. FRANCES HAITHCOCK
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Parent Survey Memorandum
May 19, 2008
Page Two

Parent responses to the survey are analyzed in a way that yields a “school’s effort” score for each completed survey. A low score indicates that the parent does not believe that the school promotes involvement in their child’s education. A high score indicates that the parent believes the school is doing a good job of facilitating involvement.

Florida has set a very high standard for what schools should be doing to facilitate parent involvement. In order for schools to meet the standard, parents must express strong agreement with many of the survey statements. In 2007, 30 percent of the “school’s effort” scores, based on responses from over 16,000 parents, met the Florida standard. The margin of error for these results is +/-1.5 percent.

This year, in addition to the statewide parent survey effort, three districts (Broward, Martin, and St. Lucie) will be piloting efforts to increase parent responses. We will share results in fall 2008.

You may access information on Indicator 8 and results of previous years’ surveys online at www.fldoe.org/ese. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Kathy Burton, Program Specialist, at (850) 245-0478 or by e-mail at Kathy.Burton@fldoe.org.

FH/BJL/kbs